

# THE UPS & DOWNS

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## NATIONAL ELEVATOR ESCALATOR SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 11 TO 17, 2007

This is a promotion of public safety awareness for the industry's equipment. Everyone is invited to make this special week a huge success in cities throughout the U.S. and Canada. Safety Week provides a focal point for the industry, on a local and national level, to join together as individuals, companies and organizations and spread the word about public safety in the elevator industry. At the same time, Safety Week is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions made by the industry to the quality of life. Volunteers reach millions of riders with important safety messages in many locations during this celebration.



### Facts and Figures

In the United States...

-There are an estimated 700,000 elevators and 35,000 escalators.

-Over 325 million riders take an elevator daily.

-Over 245 million riders take an escalator daily

-About 210 billion riders travel on elevators or escalators each year in the North America.

\*Source: National Elevator Industry, Inc. Website (March 2007)



### Special points of interest:

- City of Birmingham no longer doing annual inspections effective 8/22/2007
- Annual Inspection fee increase effective 01/01/2008

## ELEVATOR INSPECTION FEE INCREASE

On August 22, 2007, the Elevator Safety Review Board voted to increase the annual inspection fee from \$75 to \$90. With the law being in effect for three years, the cost of living increase and gas prices, the Board felt this increase was necessary. Effective January 1, 2008 this

increase will go into affect. Any object that is inspected prior to or on December 31, 2007 will be assessed the usual fee of \$75. Any object is inspected on or after January 1, 2008 will be assessed the new fee of \$90.

## THE CHIEF'S DESK

In response to the last survey sent you by the States Examiner's Office, some felt that a quarterly publication would better inform licensees of what's shaping departmental policy and how the inspection program is taking shape across Alabama.

This publication is in response to that survey. In order for this to work for you, we encourage you to let us know what you would like to see in future editions. You can email your comments, questions, or suggestions to me at [ralph.pate@alalabor.alabama.gov](mailto:ralph.pate@alalabor.alabama.gov)

As most of you know, the Department has relied heavily on licensed private inspector's to locate and inspect eleva-

tors and other conveyances. This has resulted in locating over 8,000 conveyances across the state. Although this method worked well in the first few years, many locations have not contacted this office to schedule an inspection after being notified.

In order to identify these locations that have never been inspected, the department, with advice from the elevator board will begin enforcing Section 25-13-13 of the safety code on January 1, 2008. It reads in part:

**Suspension, revocation, etc., of license.**

(3) Failure to notify the administrator and the owner or lessee of an elevator

or related mechanism of any condition not in compliance with this chapter.

What this means is every license holder must comply with the terms of their license.

Owners operating a conveyance without an annual inspection are in violation of this chapter. License holders working on or inspecting that equipment must notify the owner and this department of that violation. We will have more information on this in the near future.

Chief Inspector

Ralph Pate



## A NOTE FROM THE COMMISSIONER



*Commissioner Jim Bennett, Alabama  
Department of Labor*

It is a little known fact but more people ride elevators each day than all other forms of transportation put together.

That's a staggering statistic. So is the fact that each year across America, over 17,000 people are injured on elevators and escalators and another 25

are killed.

Hopefully, pre-emptive inspections of new and existing elevators have already saved injuries and possibly lives right here in Alabama. Since established three years ago over 7,000 of Alabama's 12,000 known elevators have been inspected with thousands of violations found and corrected.

## FROM THE DESK OF SHANNON...

Hi! I would like to take this time to thank you for doing your part to keep Alabama's elevators safe. Part of my job is to maintain statistical information for the elevator department. Currently we have 326 active licensed elevator mechanics throughout the state. We have 29

licensed elevator inspectors and 31 li-

censed elevator contractors. We also license limited elevator mechanics and contractors. At this time we have 8475 conveyances registered in the state. Of those 6909 are passenger elevators alone. We are still finding unregistered elevators daily

and we encourage you to do your part in helping us find them. If you service

or inspect an elevator that you find is not registered, please inform your customer of the law and contact this office immediately. We want everyone doing their part to keep Alabama safe!

## NEW IN MOBILE STATE'S TALLEST BUILDING FEATURES HIGH SPEED ELEVATORS

At a towering 745 feet tall, the RSA Tower in Mobile is now the tallest building in the state. The tower consists of 25 office floors, three lobby floors, four hotel floors and one service floor.

During construction, five hurricanes hit near Mobile causing delays in the construction of this building; Frances and Ivan in 2004 and Cindy, Dennis and Katrina in 2005.

Inside the tower are 25 high speed elevators. The high rise cars travel approximately 500 feet to the 35<sup>th</sup> floor @ 1000 feet per minute. There are a total of 20 traction units and five hydraulic units in the tower and hotel. There are three traction units in the parking deck. This job was started in 2004; permits were not required at that time. However ThyssenKrupp Elevator had an inspection completed on every elevator in this building to make sure on their own behalf that the building and the elevators were up to code. All elevators are completed and have a state inspection certificate. Two accidents occurred during construction of these elevators but none that were life

threatening.

From the lobby there is access to three sets of traction elevators, outfitted in marble, mirrors and brass. There are elevators for lower-level, mid-level and higher-level offices, so that if a passenger wanted to go to the 30th floor, he or she wouldn't have to wait on those who are traveling only a few stories. For months, construction crews have used a separate set of service elevators located closer to the parking garage and out of public view. The insides of those elevators were temporarily covered in plywood to protect metal finishes. The ending result: elevators finished in polished white Italian marble and rich brown Makore wood panels.

The cost of the new skyscraper was \$73 million.



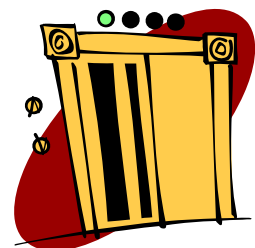
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*For more info about our laws or rules & regulations,  
visit the website below.*

**We're on the web!**  
**[alalabor.state.al.us](http://alalabor.state.al.us)**



Elevator Safety Division

ELEVATOR SAFETY DIVISION  
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
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*The Alabama Department of Labor, Elevator Safety Division has been operational since June 21, 2004. Our purpose is to assure that elevators and other automated conveyances are correctly and safely installed and operated within the state by authorizing and enforcing rules for design, installation, operation and maintenance of automated people conveyances, and by licensing mechanics and inspectors who work on these conveyances.*

BULK MAIL  
POSTAGE